

December 23, 2002

TO: SELECT BOARD

FROM: Barry L. Del Castilho, Town Manager

SUBJECT: 2009

It's probably time to think seriously about appointing a committee to plan for the Town's 250th anniversary in 2009. I hope that that committee, in conjunction with LSSE, the Historical Commission and Society, the Chamber of Commerce and others, can concentrate on the celebration activities. I hope that we can take the lead on a process of setting a vision for Amherst in 2009 through a list of goals to be accomplished (or at least attempted) by that time. We didn't do anything like this for 2000; I'd like to do it for our 250th. With department head input during the last few months, I have drafted such a list. I have consciously included programmatic goals as well as bricks and mortar.

If you agree, the next step would be to solicit board and committee input (some have already had input through their own long-term planning processes), as well as input from Town Meeting members. Perhaps the schools and libraries would put together a similar list, but perhaps the schools would want to do it only after a new superintendent has been in place for a few months (it might be a great way for that person to set some 5-year goals). A number of the capital items on the list were not sufficiently developed to include in the requests submitted to the JCPC last week, but they were included in a separate memo.

We would assign responsibilities for planning and implementation, and I would intend to keep a regular, public accounting of progress being made on each goal. Money will, of course, be an issue and will require Town Meeting or Town Council approval. If a mayor and council come into office in 2004, their review of this list, plus their immediate immersion in the FY 05 budget and capital processes, would provide opportunities for setting policy directions for the Town. But I'm not assuming that you, the Select Board, will be out of business after next year, and I wouldn't want to wait until 2004 to start this process.

Cc: Department Heads

Visions for 2009 (second draft, after DH review; not in priority order)

Kendrick Park Town-owned and maintained
Amherst Cinema renovated and active
West Cemetery plan implemented
Downtown Plan updated and implemented

- Downtown sidewalks completed (and some residential)
- Downtown beautification and maintenance partnership established
- Downtown public restrooms & police/parking substation built
- Visitors center Spring Street improved

Intersections, sidewalks improved in village centers: Pomeroy Lane, Gatehouse Rd, N. Amherst
Atkins Corner plan implemented (others planned: University Drive, North Amherst, College Street)
Route 116 over "The Notch" improved
Evergreens renovated
"Fraternity row" improved
New fire station built and/or Central Station renovated
All schools renovated; land acquired for future new school
Teen center/community building/expanded senior center built
Town Hall repointed and cleaned
Munson Building well-maintained
Cushman School sold or renovated
More infant/toddler daycare slots developed
Teen-age drug/alcohol abuse prevention programs implemented
College student alcohol abuse prevention/restitution programs implemented
"No Place For Hate" designation and/or other human rights/multiculturalism achievements
Town MLK Day commemoration established
Comprehensive Plan adopted and being implemented

- Sustainability policy
- Environmental management system
- Economic development (PRPs, downtown, village centers)
- Affordable housing (specific projects)
- Transportation plan and traffic calming, more bike paths and bus service
- Historic preservation plan (including Commons, cemeteries), progress in implementation
- Open Space Master Plan "done"
- Recreation Master Plan progress (incl. old landfill re-use)
- Sewer Facilities Plan updated, progress in implementation
- Recycling further improved, esp. downtown recycling and food composting
- Energy conservation plan progress, some goals attained (incl. bio-stabilization, water, "Dark Skies")

Tree maintenance and planting program
Accessibility further improved (downtown, conservation, other)
Subdivision Regulations revised; other Zoning Bylaw amendments
State-of-the-art technology available for citizen service/information and operational efficiencies
Support by State, University, colleges improved (e.g. for student firefighters)
Adequate police and fire staffing established
Emergency Management plan updated
Town and School athletic fields improved and maintained; field and building use policies adopted
War Memorial Pool renovated
LSSE Gold Medal Award achieved (accreditation-like process)
Community Services collaboration implemented (incl. schools, library, PD)
Senior services readied for "boomers" (will be age 62 in 2009)
Health/fitness services/programs/education implemented

Cherry Hill improvements made, finances stabilized
Regional Schools/4-Town financial planning
Regional services to replace Council of Governments
Civil War tablets displayed and War Memorial built
Town of Amherst Development Office established (fund-raising)
Signs (of all kinds) inventoried and overhauled
Town records inventoried, restored, properly stored
Storage expanded to optimize building use
Ruxton re-use determined and implemented